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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,035	04/21/2000	Ryoji Amemiya	SONY-TO488	6480

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

WANG, JIN CHENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2672

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/557,035

Applicant(s)

AMEMIYA, RYOJI

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 10/17/2003 has been entered. Claims 9 and 14 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Martinez et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,137,468 (hereinafter Martinez).

4. Claim 1:

Martinez teaches an information processing apparatus (e.g., figure 2) comprising:

A display screen (e.g., figures 4A-4D; column 3, lines 5-25);

Posture detecting means for detecting an angular component of a change of posture of the display screen (e.g., figures 5A-10; column 5, lines 5-39);

Displaying direction control means for displaying a plurality of images on said display screen, and for controlling a direction of display or a selected image (figures 5A-6C) from the plurality of images by rotating the selected image according to a rotation of said display screen

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determined by said posture detecting means (e.g., figure 5A-10; column 4, lines 40-50; column 5, lines 40-67; column 6, lines 1-67; column 7, lines 1-20).

Claim 2:

Claim 2 recites all the limitations of claim 1 and adds the limitation of a plurality of windows. Martinez clearly teaches a plurality of windows (e.g., figures 5A-5C; column 4, lines 40-50; column 5, lines 40-67; column 6, lines 1-67; column 7, lines 1-20).

Claim 3:

Martinez teaches an information processing apparatus (figure 2) comprising:

A display screen (e.g., figures 4A-4D; column 3, lines 5-25);

Posture detecting means for detecting an angular component of a change of posture of the display screen (e.g., figure 5A-10; column 5, lines 5-39);

Displaying direction control means for displaying an image on said display screen, and for controlling a direction of display of the image by rotating said image (e.g., figures 5A-6C) according to a rotation of the display screen determined by said posture detecting means; wherein said displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of said image by rotating said image according to the rotation of the display screen beyond a predetermined (e.g., figure 5A-10; column 4, lines 40-50; column 5, lines 40-67; column 6, lines 1-67; column 7, lines 1-20).

Claim 4:

The claim 4 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 3 except additional claimed limitation that the displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of

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said image by rotating said image when the display screen remains rotated beyond the predetermined range after a predetermined time. However, Martinez further discloses the claimed limitation that the displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of said image by rotating said image when the display screen remains rotated beyond the predetermined range after a predetermined time (e.g., figure 10; column 4, lines 40-50; column 5, lines 40-67; column 6, lines 1-67; column 7, lines 1-20).

Claim 5:

The claim 5 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation that the displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of said selected image by rotating said selected image according to the rotation of the display screen beyond a predetermined range. However, Martinez further discloses the claimed limitation that the displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of said selected image by rotating said selected image according to the rotation of the display screen beyond a predetermined range (e.g., figure 10; column 4, lines 40-50; column 5, lines 40-67; column 6, lines 1-67; column 7, lines 1-20).

Claim 6:

The claim 6 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that the displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of said selected image by rotating said selected image when the display screen remains rotated beyond the predetermined range after a predetermined time.

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However, Martinez further discloses the claimed limitation that the displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of said selected image by rotating said selected image when the display screen remains rotated beyond the predetermined range after a predetermined time (e.g., figure 10; column 4, lines 40-50; column 5, lines 40-67; column 6, lines 1-67; column 7, lines 1-20).

5. Claims 7-12:

The claims 7-12 are a rephrasing of claims 1-6 in a method form, respectively. The claims are rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 1-6.

6. Claims 13-17:

The claims 13-17 encompass the same scope of invention as those of claims 1, 3-6 except additional claimed limitation of “the medium for storing the program”. However, Martinez further discloses the claimed limitation of “the medium for storing the program” (e.g., figure 2; column 7, lines 20-35).

Remarks

7. Applicant’s arguments, filed 10/17/2003, paper number 13, have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

8. Applicant argues in essence with respect to the Claim 1 and similar claims that:

“Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Martinez states that a direction of the entire display (i.e., each of the multiple windows 500 and 502 and icons 504-508, as well as the object 602 in the window 600) is controlled, and does not state that a direction of

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display of one of multiple images (e.g., one of the windows 500 and 502 and the icons 504-508, or one of multiple objects 602 in the window 600) is controlled."

In response to the specific arguments presented in above, the examiner asserts that the cited reference clearly teaches controlling a direction of display of one of multiple images (e.g., the images contained in the one of the multiple windows 502 and 500 of Fig 5A-5C and the the images or objects contained in the one of the multiple windows 600 and 602 of Fig. 6A-6C) because one of the multiple images contained in the objects or windows has been controlled (rotated) according to rotation of the display screen. Therefore, Martinez fulfills the claim 1 as currently drafted. I

Moreover, in column 46, lines 15-24 of Applicant's specification, it is stated "Thus, as illustrated in Fig. 19, when the user checks in the check box 123 associated with 'switch display' in the pull down menu 122, for example, in the first window 117 of the first to third windows 117 to 119, a change in the posture of the display section 3, if any, can cause only the first window 117 to be rotated about an intersection point P of its diagonals to change the orientation in which the first window 117 is displayed, and the remaining second and third windows 118, 119 and the desktop screen 124 to be displayed as they are without changing the display orientation."

Therefore, Martinez meets the claim limitation of one of multiple images because rotating one of a plurality of objects or windows is the same as rotating the image contained in the one of a plurality of objects or windows. Additionally, Applicant only describes rotating a selected window and direction of display of one of the multiple windows in the specification while the claim limitation set forth in the Claim 1 recites a direction of display of one of multiple

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images. The Examiner interprets the direction of display of one of multiple images as the direction of display of the image contained in the one of the multiple windows (according to a change in the posture of the display screen).

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (703) 605-1213. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6606 for regular communications and (703) 308-6606 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 395-3900.

jcw
December 30, 2003



MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600